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## Florida House Redistricting Committee Introduces Workshop Options for House and Congressional Maps

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – As a starting point for possible House and Congressional maps, the House Redistricting Committee today introduced workshop options that will form the basis of the discussion about Florida's future House and Congressional districts.

"For the past year, we have traveled the state, received hundreds of letters, emails, Facebook comments and tweets and held committee meetings to seek and analyze input on how to redraw Florida's political boundary lines for the next 10 years," said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). "These maps represent the collective input we have received from Floridians across the state and also reflect federal and state redistricting legal standards. I look forward to receiving further input from the public and any members of the Legislature to ensure these maps best represent the interests of all Floridians."

The House Redistricting Committee staff provided members of the Committee with seven options for the Congressional map and five options for the State House map. The maps were drawn by the professional staff of the House Redistricting Committee, based on state and federal legal standards, public input and guidance received in committee meetings.

Additionally, the maps account for best practices that were put forth consistently throughout the 26 public input meetings held around Florida. For example, Floridians frequently requested that their cities and counties be kept whole in their districts. Therefore, the options released today proposed significant increases for the number of counties and cities kept whole in the redistricting maps.

Copies of the maps are available <u>online</u> and were made available to the public during today's meetings. A PDF file of the maps is available by <u>clicking here</u>.

This past summer, the House and Senate Redistricting Committees hosted 26 public meetings in communities around Florida to gather input, which has been used as a guide throughout the redistricting process. Additionally, the House has received submissions via phone, mail, e-mail, blogs and social media, as well as Member suggestions during previous committee and subcommittee meetings. As the maps make their way through the committee process, Floridians can continue visiting <a href="FloridaRedistricting.org">FloridaRedistricting.org</a> for updates and to submit input and share ideas.